

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BUENOS 06665 061736Z

44

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NASA-02 NSF-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 IO-10 /108 W

----- 008107

R 061516Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2996

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL HAMILTON

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 6665

DEPT PASS NASA AND NSF POLAR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, XV, AR, GW, US

SUBJ: ROCKET LAUNCH FROM MARAMBIO STATION, ANTARCTICA

1. THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE NATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH COMMISSION SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED AN ARGENTINE-BUILT "CASTOR" ROCKET ON OCTOBER 3 FROM MARAMBIO STATION IN THE ANTARCTIC.

2. THE LAUNCHING WAS CONDUCTED AS PART OF THE "EGNI" PROGRAM, UNDER WHICH THE PAYLOAD WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT AT THE MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE IN THE FRG.

3. THE ROCKET IS REPORTED TO HAVE REACHED AN ALTITUDE OF 460 KMS. IT RELEASED A CLOUD OF IONIZED SODIUM VAPOR WHICH PROCEEDED TO FOLLOW THE MAGNETIC FIELD LINE FORTHWARD AND WAS REPORTEDLY OBSERVED OVER THE STRAITS OF MAGELLAN, TANDIL AND EL LEONCITO, ARGENTINA, AND, BY NASA PERSONNEL, AT NANTUCKET ISLAND, WALLOPS STATION, BERMUDA, AND FROM AN AIRCRAFT SOMEWHERE

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 06665 061736Z

OVER THE CONUS. THE CLOUD REPORTEDLY TOOK ONLY 55 MINUTES

TO TRAVEL FROM THE ANTARCTIC TO THE U.S.

4. SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS PUBLISHED HERE MISTAKENLY STATED  
THAT THE ROCKET ITSELF TRAVELLED OVER THE U.S.

5. COMMENT. THIS WAS THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL ROCKET LAUNCH  
FROM MARAMBIO AND WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN CLEAR WEATHER AT  
4:44 AM LOCAL TIME WITH THE TEMPERATURE AT 14 DEGREES F.  
IT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE HAS ACHIEVED  
A CAPABILITY FOR LAUNCHING OF HIGH ALTITUDE SOUNDING ROCKETS  
FROM MARAMBIO, AND VERIFIES THE OPERABILITY OF THE CASTOR  
MISSILE.  
HILL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPACE PROGRAMS, ROCKETS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 09 SEP 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** TPHY, XV, AR, GE, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006